The official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

news@afrl
Lab Laurels

Winter 2001 Volume II, Issue 4

Air Force Research Laboratory honors its top achievers

by Timothy Anderl, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Air Force Research Laboratory took a huge step towards honoring its New Year's resolutions during a ceremony at the Wright -Patterson AFB Officers' Club January 10.

In an after-dinner speech given at AFRL's First Corporate Awards Ceremony, Brig. Gen. Paul Nielsen, AFRL Commander, spoke of a resolution to recognize the laboratory's people for their contributions and teamwork. These key elements, according to Nielsen, are the most important component for the success of the laboratory.

During the ceremony, Nielsen handed out 11 awards to individuals and teams who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the areas of administrative support, leadership, mission support, and scientific and technical management.

Claudia M. Duncan, from the Sensors Directorate, received the Administrative Excellence Award for her performance as division secretary and secretary to the deputy division chief in the Automatic Target Recognition Technology Division. She managed the daily activities of six branch-level secretaries within the division as well as internal office activities.

TSgt Kenneth C. Harper, from the Human Effectiveness Directorate, received the Senior Administrative Excellence Award for his service as Superintendent of Information Management for the Warfighter Training Division. Harper provided administrative support for the 150-member warfighter training research team during Operation Allied Force. He also orchestrated delivery of 400 interim cockpit lighting kits for installation in more than 200 Air Force aircraft that were engaged in night combat missions.

The Turbine Engine Technician Team, from the Propulsion Directorate, received the Mission Support Team Award for their expertise and ingenuity in component evaluation. Their efforts made possible the attainment of Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology, and evaluation of F-22 and Unmanned Air Vehicle propulsion system components. The team included Glen Boggs, Gary Dowen, David Elkins, Terry Gillaugh, Gary Howell, Charles Jordan, John Kaehler, Robert Maggio, Jr., William Nilson, Mark Pennywitt, Bruce Tavner, Robert Wirrig, and Ronald Wolgast.

MAKING GOOD ON A PROMISE Brig. General Paul D. Nielsen, AFRL Commander (at right) delivers an after-dinner speech during the AFRL Corporate Awards Banquet in January. Gen. Nielsen said the lab, as a New Year's resolution, promised to recognize its people as the most important component of the laboratory.

COMMANDER'S CUP RECIPIENT - George Slenski, (pictured on right) leader of the Electronic Failure Analysis Team of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate's Systems Support Division, received the Commander's Cup Individual Award.

The individual Mission Support Award was given to SSgt. Raymond LePage, from the Space Vehicle Directorate, for service as Noncommissioned-Officer-in-Charge of Digital Ionspherice Research and Development for the Battlespace Environment Division. LePage developed a relationship with warfighters by deploying to Korea to demonstrate laboratory tools used for enhancement of warfighter effectiveness. He also played a role in bringing the Air Force's first equatorial space weather station on-line.

The Scientific/Technical Management Award was given to Dr. Craig Denman, from the Directed Energy Directorate, for his

Top achievers continued on page 2

Top Achievers continued from page 1

management of the Laser Division. Denman worked to establish AFRL as a world-class organization in fiber laser technology by unifying several DoD and commercial partners as a team. He also developed a national program, Laser Integration Technology, which advances high power fiber lasers and manufacturing technologies by leveraging research and development in the multibillion-dollar telecommunications industry.

The Advanced Power Technology Team, from the Space Vehicles Directorate, earned the team Scientific/Technical Achievement Award for its in-house technical achievements in advanced power. They led the Air Force's effort to develop advanced power generation technology and integrate it into future space systems. This is reflected in the team's development, demonstration, transition, and application of next-generation space solar cells and solar arrays. The team includes Sgt. Troy Daigle, Drs. Dean Marvin and Kitt Reinhardt, Clay Mayberry, John Merrill, John Nocerino, Angelita Sainz, and Capt. Joseph Tringe.

Maj. Randy P. Broussard, from the Sensors Directorate, received the individual Scientific/Technical Achievement Award for his in-house technical achievements with Advanced Combat Identification Systems. Broussard developed an algorithm for an advanced target identification capability that provides a 320 percent increase in the number of targets that can be identified. As a result, Air Force pilots will be able to identify enemy aircraft, which cannot be identified by any other operational platform.

MSgt. Norris Stokes, from the Directed Energy Directorate, received the Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership of the Commander's Support Staff at Phillips Research Site. Stokes reorganized several offices to ensure enlisted members at the site were taken care of. He also developed a new process for the unit quarterly awards, getting senior leadership to implement the changes in a quick and effective manner. During the award period, he also received Distinguished Graduate honors at the Air Force First Sergeant's Academy and the Academic Achievement Award from the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Col. Jerald L. Straw, from the Human Effectiveness Directorate, received the Senior Leadership Award for his performance as chief of the Warfighter Training Division. Straw spearheaded the Distributed Mission Training demonstration at a Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C. He also orchestrated the division's deployment of $12 million in simulation assets while coordinating with seven other agencies. His direction led to the extension of training and technologies in next generation Air Force readiness training from the Mesa Research Site to the rest of the Air Force.

The Commander's Cup Team Award went to the Sensor Protection Kosovo Support Team, from the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, for providing direct warfighter support during Operation Allied Force. Initiated by an "urgent and compelling request" to protect Air Force aircraft, the team combined efforts of a multi-organizational team to design and fabricate a laser hardening component, integrate and bench test the retrofit, and field test the modified system against a threat laser before flight testing. This was done in only 11 days. Members of the team included Charles Lovett, Elizabeth Milliken, Lt. Jacob Porter, and Christopher Ristich.

George A. Slenski, leader for the Electronic Failure Analysis Team of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate's Systems Support Division, received the Commander's Cup Individual Award. Slenski led several critical Air Force accident investigations, initiated a focused national attack on aging wiring issues, and influenced program decisions by NASA, the National Transportation and Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration. His efforts significantly improved the safety and reliability of multiple Air Force and commercial aircraft. **@**